



The OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals

What is the OHS Body of Knowledge?

The OHS Body of Knowledge has been developed as an e-book describing the collective knowledge that should be shared by Australian generalist OHS professionals to provide a sound basis for understanding the causation and control of work-related fatality, injury, disease and ill-health (FIDI). The OHS Body of Knowledge is not a textbook, nor a course of study, but describes key concepts and related evidence that can be applied in different contexts and frameworks.

Why is an OHS Body of Knowledge needed?

A defined body of knowledge is an important pre-requisite of a profession. It is also required as a basis for professional certification and for accreditation of programs giving entry to the profession. The lack of such a body of knowledge for OHS professionals was identified in reviews of OHS legislation and OHS education in Australia.

Why is the OHS Body of Knowledge important to you?

If you are an OHS educator the OHS Body of Knowledge will inform your program development and your learning materials. If you are a prospective OHS student your selected accredited education program will have been developed taking account of the OHS Body of Knowledge. If you are an OHS professional seeking professional certification then your practice will be assessed considering the scope of the OHS Body of Knowledge and your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) will be structured with reference to the OHS Body of Knowledge. If you are an OHS regulator, employer or recruiter the OHS Body of Knowledge provides a benchmark for professional practice.

How was the OHS Body of Knowledge developed?

The process of developing and structuring the main content of this document was managed by a Technical Panel with representation from Victorian universities that teach OHS and from the Safety Institute of Australia. Input was obtained from OHS educators and OHS professionals Australia-wide. Specialist authors were invited to contribute chapters, which were then subjected to peer-review and editing. The OHS Body of Knowledge was formally launched in April 2012 at the SIA National Convention, Safety in Action.

The OHS Body of Knowledge, 2012, is not intended to be a definitive statement, fixed in time. Rather it is the beginning of the discussion; a discussion that will occur on a national and international basis and so the OHS Body of Knowledge will be regularly amended and updated as people use it and as the evidence base expands. Make sure you are part of the discussion.

How can I access the OHS Body of Knowledge for generalist OHS professionals? Go to www.ohsbok.org.au

Supported and maintained by



Safety Institute
of Australia Ltd



Australian OHS Education
Accreditation Board